



# LEDGER LINES

AFRC/BA, Robins AFB GA 31098-2252

First Edition 2004

## Operation Season's Greetings 2003

### AFRC Band opens for Restless Heart, Cheerleaders, comedian

By Captain Anita Pavey  
AFRC Public Affairs

Members of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve and the United States Air Forces in Europe Band, combined with Armed Forces Entertainment, brought holiday cheer to American troops and their families throughout Europe as part of Operation Season's Greetings 2003. Opening for returning headliners Restless Heart, one of country music's best-selling groups, the band set the pace for what turned out to be an exciting blend of comedy, dance and music.

"We were thrilled about opening this year's show," said Tech. Sgt. Ken Trimmins, trumpeter and vocalist with the AFRC Band at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "It was such a great opportunity for us to do our part in letting the troops and their families know we support them 110 percent." Trimmins left last year's OSG early for a performance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

"We had a top-notch group of musicians assembled from both bands, and they put on an incredible show," said Dave Ballengee, tour producer. "We brought something for everyone this year, and the shows were incredibly well-received," he said.

The band provided not only musicians, but also expertise in production and technical support. "Our tech team is second to none within the Air Force," said Mr. Ballengee. "They provide state of the capability in any situation to make the shows very successful. Our guest artists complemented them for their professionalism and hard work."

The bands performed concerts at Air Force bases in the Azores, Italy, Germany, Turkey and England. In addition to Restless Heart, OSG 2003 featured four of the New England Patriots Cheerleaders and comedian Andy Andrews. An OSG veteran, Mary Therese of television station WMAZ, Macon, Ga., returned to host the tour.



Senior Master Sgt. Jim Larimer, center, from the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve, performed a saxophone solo with Restless Heart during Operations Season's Greetings 2003.

Photo by: Ken Hackmen

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## From the Desk of the Commander



As I sat down to prepare my thoughts for this newsletter, I began to reflect on the theme of this issue - Celebrating our American Heroes. The people we've honored are not all heroes for the same reasons, and they're not all from the same time period, but they are certainly all heroes - each and every one. Over the past year we've tried to honor our American Heroes through live and recorded music. They certainly deserve the best we have to offer.

Our Operation Season's Greetings 2003 deployment celebrated our modern day heroes – the men and women of our US Armed Forces who are serving overseas. With the advent of the War on Terrorism and the War in Iraq thousands of our American troops have been away from home for extraordinarily long periods of time. Words do not adequately express our thanks to these brave men and women for their constant vigilance. It was our hope that by bringing them some greetings from home, some holiday cheer, and some great entertainment we could show how much they are appreciated. I believe we succeeded.

The release this year of our new compact disc "American Hero" was dedicated as a celebration of a local hero, Brigadier General (ret) Robert L. Scott. General Scott is a great patriot, a great Airman, and a true American Hero. We are thrilled that we were able to personally present him with the first copy of the CD!

December 17, 2003 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of powered flight. From the Wright Brothers to Chuck Yeager to Neil Armstrong to the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia, flight has been a wonderful and, at times, tragic journey with thousands of heroes along the way. This past year we performed our show *The Journey of Flight: The Power of the Dream* to live audiences across the country. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Tech. Sgt. Janis Thrift for her creativity and superb talent in designing and developing this wonderful concept and to all the great musicians who brought it to life show after show.

Finally, I would like to recognize one other group of heroes - the men and women of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. This letter is one of the last I will write as the Commander of this great group of Airmen. Many have come and gone over the last eight years, but the success of this unit lies with all of them, past and present. Band Strike Packages, Operation Season's Greetings, Holiday Radio Shows, Gathering of Eagles, CBS TV, ABC TV, NBC TV ... the list of innovations and achievements goes on and on. I am proud of this squadron and very proud of its people. As I go on to my new assignment as Commandant of Cadets at Louisiana State University's ROTC detachment, I wish the AFRC Band a fond farewell and best of luck. This organization is "no kidding, world class!"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Alan Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

N. Alan Clark, Major, USAF  
Commander  
Band of the USAF Reserve

## Air Force Bagpipe Band; Glorious Past, Boundless Future

By Senior Airman Dandrick Glenn  
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve released their latest recording entitled, *Glorious Past, Boundless Future*. In Nashville Tenn., February 16-22, 2002, Airmen from the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve pipe bands gathered for an historic recording project. The project brought together members of the former U.S. Air Force Pipe Band that was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., from 1958-1970, and the current Air Force Reserve Pipe Band that was formed in 1968 and is stationed at headquarters Air Force Reserve at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

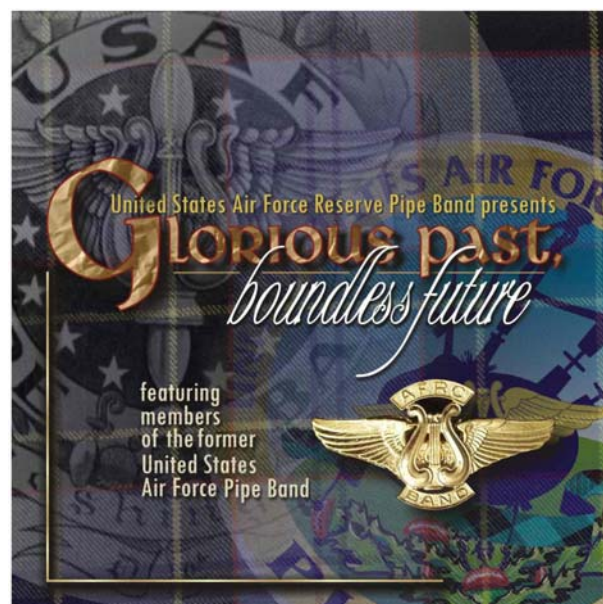
"This recording was a dream of mine for a very long time, not just to record the Air Force Reserve pipes, but also to gather and include the Air Force pipers and drummers that started the tradition of Air Force bagpiping in the late 1950's" said Senior Master Sergeant retired Jack Story, former Drum Major and former non-commissioned officer in charge of the Air Force Reserve Pipe Band.

Before reuniting for this project, many members of the U.S. Air Force Pipe Band were scattered throughout the United States and Canada and had not been in contact with each other since the group was disbanded in 1970. Some had not played their instruments since then either.

The U.S. Air Force Pipe Band was disbanded in 1970 as a result of defense budget cuts; many of the personnel involved with the pipe band at that time were separated from the Air Force while others stayed on with the U.S. Air Force Band to complete their careers. Many of the former members went on to pursue various careers varying from being a Doctor of Psychology to being the professor of piping at the Citadel Military Academy. Many of the personnel who made up the U.S. Air Force Pipe Band were already world renowned as some of the best pipers and drummers in the world, even before this group was formed. Shortly after their formation the group became known around the world as one of the best professional bagpipe ensembles, and their reputation preceded them wherever they traveled. Their mission while on active duty was to travel the globe serving as musical ambassadors of the United States and the U.S. Air Force. One of the most significant performances the band did was to perform at the funeral for President John F. Kennedy and as he was laid to rest in Arlington National Military Cemetery in Washington D.C. The Air Force Reserve Pipe Band picked up that torch and followed in their footsteps.

"This project was singularly unique because no other military band around the world has brought back the patriarchs of that band to produce a recording or to perform," said Lt. Col. Bill McKinley, a reservist and an augmentee for the Air Force Reserve Pipe Band. "This project was an acknowledgement of a very important Air Force tradition that stems from before President Kennedy's administration and includes over 40 years of Air Force piping. Bagpiping in the Air Force has been an integral ceremonial representation of the best of what the Air Force has to offer."

The title, *Glorious Past-Boundless Future* explains the musical heritage that comprises the Air Force Reserve Pipe Band. "The music performed on this recording reminded us all of our roots and heritage," said Lt. Col. McKinley. Musical types represented on this recording span many different genres of bagpipe music, including traditional highland piping, Celtic ensemble, bagpipes with rock band accompaniment, and the massed band tunes of *Amazing Grace* and *Scotland the Brave*. "The Air Force Reserve band personnel who participated in this project were some of the best and most talented that I had seen in my 28 years of Air Force service," said Sergeant Story. The cooperation between the Air Force Pipe Band and the Air Force Reserve Pipe Band was a landmark event for Air Force Bands and the world of military bagpiping.



Cover Art by: Ms. Wendy Hudson  
HQ AFRC Graphic Section



## *Reserve Band Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Flight*

By Senior Airman Dandrick Glenn  
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Throughout 2003 and into January 2004, the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve was part of several productions celebrating 100 years of powered flight. The Concert Band performed as part of a tattoo ceremony at Robins Air Force Base. At the 2003 Gathering of Eagles Ceremony, held in conjunction with the Air Command and Staff College graduation, the band's production team worked tirelessly to provide lighting and other technical support for the event. This year's tribute included video footage honoring legendary aviators such as Chuck Yeager, Buddy Archer, and Colonel Eileen Collins backed by music from the band. "This was the second time the band coordinated live music and recorded video production on this scale, a fitting tribute for the aviators and 100 years of powered flight," said Major N. Alan Clark, Commander and Conductor of the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

Senior Airman Adam Dempsey, an audio engineer and lighting designer for the Band of the Air Force Reserve, was asked to work as an assistant lighting designer with The United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. in their musical production, "Born of a Dream." "The musical was set in a fictitious town of Wrightsville, and it follows a reporter who thought that flying was



**Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell was featured on Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" during the Band of the Air Force Reserve's presentation of "The Journey of Flight: The Power of the Dream." Photo by: Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant (917th WG/PA Barksdale AFB, LA)**



**Staff Sgt. Tamiko Boone was featured with the Concert Band on several vocal pieces for "The Journey of Flight; The Power of the Dream." Photo by: Staff Sgt. Norman Walker II**

unnecessary, said Airman Dempsey. "The story continued with the reporter learning more about the history of aviation, which caused him to change his opinion about flight." "Born of a Dream" premiered September 18-21, 2003 at the National Theatre in Washington, DC. The musical was written, produced, and performed by members of The Air Force Band. "Working with this major production was a great experience to branch out and grow as a lighting designer," Dempsey said.

In October 2003 and January 2004 the Band of the Air Force Reserve presented "The Journey of Flight: The Power of the Dream" as part of several Concert Band productions in a patriotic tribute celebrating 100 years of powered flight. "After performing for our base tattoo and the Gathering of Eagles, I thought it would be great for the band to present a patriotic tribute celebrating 100 years of powered flight," said Tech. Sgt. Janis Thrift. Sergeant Thrift, the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of

Musical Resources, along with other band members created a show for this occasion. "We as a band are fortunate to have several fine vocalists and other musicians," Thrift said. "This show was a way to feature their extraordinary talents and celebrate a historic occasion."

## Vacancies

Oboe

Keyboard

Clarinet

Trumpet (jazz emphasis)

Guitar (jazz emphasis)

Bass

Saxophone

For audition information Contact Staff Sgt. Marcel Marchetti  
marcel.marchetti@afrc.af.mil



The mission of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve is to provide musical support for Air Force and Air Force Reserve recruiting programs; official military functions and ceremonies; troop morale, esprit de corps, and personnel retention at Air Force installations; and Air Force and Department of Defense (DoD) community relations programs.

For more information about the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to:

**[www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band](http://www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band), or call (478) 327-0555**

For more information about careers in the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to:

**[www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com), or call (800) 257-1212**

## Key Personnel

Commander,  
Air Force Reserve Command  
Lt Gen James E. Sherrard III

Vice Commander,  
Maj Gen John Batbie, Jr

Assistant Vice Commander,  
Brig Gen Robert E. Lytle

Commander,  
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve  
Maj N. Alan Clark

Deputy Director,  
Mr. David Ballengee

Band Manager,  
Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell

First Sergeant,  
Master Sgt. Scott Gunn

Director of Operations,  
Tech. Sgt. Ken Trimmings

Managing Editor,  
Tech. Sgt. John Alexander

Assistant Editor and Graphic Design,  
Senior Airman Dandrick Glenn



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Band of the United States Air Force Reserve  
550 Allentown Road Bldg 763  
Robins AFB GA 31098-2252

Phone: 478-327-0555  
Fax: 478-327-0568

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